

Listing of the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of maintaining a building structure free of fungi, the building having an enclosed space within the structure having defined by a floor surface, side walls and a ceiling, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a housing having an inlet end and an outlet end;

providing a blower at the outlet end of the housing having an inlet for receiving air flowing through the housing and an outlet for discharging air delivered to the blower inlet;

providing a plenum at the inlet end of the housing;

providing a plurality of elongated tubular intake conduits having outlet ends connected to the plenum and inlet ends extending downwardly from the outlet ends;

positioning the housing in an upper region of the enclosed space with the inlet ends of the conduits opening at spaced collecting air from a plurality of spaced locations within the enclosed space, the locations being proximate the floor surface and distributed over the entire area of the floor surface so as whereby to effectively collect air from the entire enclosed space proximate the floor surface in response to operation of the blower and draw the collected air through the conduits and through the housing for delivery to the blower inlet;

~~delivering the collected air to a central chamber positioned within the enclosed space;~~

~~positioning a blower within the chamber having an inlet for receiving the collected air and an outlet for discharging the air delivered to the inlet;~~

subjecting the air flowing from the enclosed space to the blower to a germicidal treatment; and

discharging the collected and germicidally treated air from the blower outlet.

2. (Previously Amended) A method according to claim 1 wherein the germicidal treating step comprises:

creating a fungi killing zone ; and

passing the flow of air through the killing zone.

3. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 2 wherein the killing zone comprises a zone in which the flow of air is subjected to ~~radiant energy~~ultraviolet radiation.

4.-8. (Cancelled) .

9. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~8-2~~
wherein:

the ~~lower~~-enclosed space comprises a finished basement area of the building including paneling spaced from a foundation wall of the basement to define a dead air space between the foundation wall and the paneling; and
the fungi killing zone is created in the dead air space.

10.-12. (Cancelled).

13. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~10-3~~
wherein the method includes the further steps of providing a means for detecting the presence of a human in the ~~second~~-enclosed space and extinguishing the ~~radiant energy~~ultra violet radiation in response to a sensed human presence.

14. (Cancelled).

15. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for abating fungi in a building structure having ~~boundary walls defining a first~~ an enclosed space ~~intended for human occupancy and a second enclosed space proximate the first enclosed space and having~~ including side walls, a ceiling, and a floor surface, the apparatus comprising:

a housing having an inlet end and an outlet end;

a plenum defined at the inlet end of the housing;

a blower unit positioned at the outlet end of the housing and having an air inlet for receiving air flowing through the housing and an air exhaust for discharging air delivered to the blower unit inlet ~~and adapted to be positioned in the structure with the air inlet communicating with the second enclosed space, actuation of the blower unit being operative to draw air from the second enclosed space into the inlet of the blower unit and thereafter discharge the air through the air exhaust;~~

a plurality of elongated tubular conduits each having an outlet ~~and~~ communicating with the blower air inlet plenum and an inlet end extending downwardly from the outlet end, the conduits being configured such that, with the housing positioned in an upper region of the enclosed space, the inlet ends of the conduits ~~being~~ are positioned at spaced locations proximate the floor surface ~~of the second enclosed space,~~ the inlet ends being distributed over the entire area of the floor surface so as, actuation of the blower unit being operative to effectively collect air from the entire second enclosed space proximate area of the floor surface in response to actuation of the blower unit, draw it through the conduits to the plenum, and draw it through the housing for discharge into the enclosed space; and

a source of radiant energy adapted to be positioned ~~in a position to~~ establish a fungi killing zone to intercept collected air moving through the conduits and the housing from the second enclosed space into the inlet of floor surface to the blower unit.

16. (Original) A structure according to claim 15 wherein the source of radiant energy comprises an ultraviolet lamp.

17. (Previously Amended) An apparatus according to claim 16 wherein the apparatus further includes an exhaust conduit having an inlet end connected to the exhaust of the blower unit.

18.-19. (Cancelled).

20. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 18 wherein each intake conduit has a horizontal run connected to the ~~blower unit air inlet plenum~~ and a vertical run extending downwardly from the horizontal run to position the inlet end of the intake conduit proximate the floor surface of the ~~lower~~ enclosed space.

21. (Cancelled) .

22. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 20 wherein the source of radiant energy comprises a plurality of radiant energy sources adapted to be positioned in spaced relation in the ~~lower~~ enclosed space and operative to intercept the air moving into the intake ends of each of the intake conduits.

23.-24. (Cancelled).

25. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim ~~24~~ 22 wherein the apparatus further includes means for sensing the humidity in the ~~lower~~ enclosed space and operative to actuate the blower unit and the ~~ultraviolet lamps~~ radiant energy sources in response to variations in the sensed humidity.

26. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 25 wherein the apparatus further includes means for detecting the presence of a human in the lower enclosed space and operative in response to such detection to turn off the ~~lamps~~ radiant energy sources.

27. (Cancelled).

28. (Currently Amended) A structure comprising:
boundary walls defining a first enclosed air space intended for human occupancy and a second enclosed air space proximate the first air space and having a floor surface;

a housing positioned in an upper region of the second enclosure and having an inlet end and an outlet end;

a plenum defined at the inlet end of the housing;

a blower unit positioned in the structure at the outlet end of the housing and having an air inlet for receiving air flowing through the housing communicating with the second enclosed space and an air exhaust for discharging air delivered to the blower unit inlet;

a plurality of elongated tubular intake conduits each having an outlet end connected to the plenum communicating with the inlet end of the blower unit and an inlet end extending downwardly from the outlet end, the inlets inlet ends of the conduits being positioned at spaced locations proximate the floor surface of the second enclosed space, the inlet ends being distributed over the entire area of the floor surface so as to effectively collect air from the entire second enclosed space proximate the floor surface in response to actuation of the blower unit; and

a source of radiant energy positioned to establish a fungi killing zone to intercept collected air moving through the intake conduits from the second enclosed air space into the inlet end of the blower unit.

29. (Cancelled).

30. (Previously Amended) A structure according to claim 28 wherein the source of radiant energy comprises ~~an~~ ultraviolet lamp means.

31.-39 (Cancelled).